From: Zondervan, Quinton
To: Harvey Tuch
Subject: Re: Say No to Mass Against HP
Date: Monday, April 23, 2018 2:28:04 PM

Great, thanks Harvey! Stay tuned for some bike lane action soon :-) Best,

Q

Quinton Zondervan
Cambridge City Councillor
617-901-2006

On Apr 21, 2018, at 7:07 PM, Harvey Tuch <h@tuch.id.au> wrote:

Thanks so much Quinton for this detailed insight into how the early discussions took place, concern for transparency and interplay with official process. I also appreciate that you took the time to hear out both sides before coming to a decision on whether to support the resolution.

BTW, I was very happy to vote for you as a new councilor at the last election based on your strong bike advocacy track record and other background you shared in your mailout. Looking forward to what the council can accomplish on transport infra and bikes during its term.

On Sat, Apr 21, 2018 at 6:06 PM Zondervan, Quinton <qzondervan@cambridgema.gov> wrote:

> Thanks Harvey, there is no such resolution on the agenda for Monday. Regarding transparency, a resolution that would be on the agenda would not be publicly available until the Thursday before. It is not our practice to share draft resolutions with the world before they are on the agenda; that would cause lots of confusion.
>
> In addition this particular resolution was drafted by an outside group and so they control who that draft language is shared with, not the council. I myself didn't see the proposed language until a week ago.
>
> We also cannot deliberate such a proposed resolution as a body, except at a properly noticed public meeting, per the state's open meeting law. So we could only meet with the proponents individually (meaning one councillor at a time) and hear them out.
>
> To my knowledge none of the councillors were willing to sponsor the proposed resolution, including myself, which is why it is not on the agenda. I realize this process is confusing, but we are not trying to hide anything nor are we doing anything unusual. It's just how the process works when constituents bring us a resolution they want one of us to sponsor. I personally met with proponents and opponents of the proposal, before making my decision.
>
> I appreciate your understanding and thank you for contacting us.

Best,

Q

Quinton Zondervan
Cambridge City Councillor
617-901-2006

On Apr 21, 2018, at 5:11 PM, Harvey Tuch <h@tuch.id.au> wrote:

> Hi Cambridge Council,
>
> It's come to my attention that a group known as "Mass Against HP" plans to present a resolution seeking to sever ties between Cambridge and HP at the 4/23 meeting. A key platform of this group is (quoting from their website) to "to end contracts with Hewlett-Packard (HP) until the company ends its corporate complicity in the Israeli occupation of Palestine".
>
> As a Cambridge resident, tax payer, voter and member of the Jewish community, I'm deeply disturbed by this resolution on a number of accounts, and I urge the city council to vote against any such proposal. I do not want my tax dollars to be used in a manner that effectively discriminates against the state and people of Israel, and I do not want to have the City adopt a policy representative of this.
>
> I'd like to begin by pointing out that there is room for legitimate debate on the politics of the Mid East and foreign policy, including human rights, and also that I'm sure the City Councilors who may be supportive of "Mass Against HP" are acting with the best of intentions. However, singling out Israel via a boycott is highly problematic. Whether or not it is the intention, applying a policy that is aimed at punishing the only Jewish state in the world in the name of human rights, while ignoring actions of states such as China and Russia, routine and gross violators of human rights (see for example the recent gas attacks in Syria), is effectively a form of discrimination against the Jewish people, many of who have significant affinity with Israel.
>
> As a Cambridge Jew, I want our city to be a beacon of hope in the world and a champion of minorities; adopting a policy that singles out Israel is akin to adopting a policy that only singles out Muslim countries (i.e. the recent US travel bans) or that singles out only African people/countries. Being effectively discriminatory is just as bad as doing it by intention. Please don't let Cambridge become part of the state machinery of minority discrimination. I'm proud of our diversity, Cambridge Jews are part of this mix and I want to see official concern for our residents applied uniformly.

I'm also a technology professional and I'm acutely aware of how modern technology supply chains work. A modern compute system will have hardware and software components that derive from across a global supply chain, including from problematic regions such as China and conflict Africa (e.g. rare Earth metals, semiconductors, etc.) as well as Russia (e.g. security software). It is actually impossible to be consistent and rational in sourcing technology that avoids dependencies on regimes that are massive violators of human rights. When the most heinous of human rights violators can't be influenced via technology procurement policy, it's even further concerning that folks would seek to select out Israel, a vibrant liberal democracy in the midst of a region rife with autocratic and oppressive regimes.

I've also heard that some councilors have had access to the proposal in advance and have not chosen to share with the residents of Cambridge. In the interest of governmental transparency, I implore you to do so, so that we can be further engaged in the democratic process.

Thanks for taking the time to consider this feedback. I know the City councilors are hard working and feel strongly about tackling the challenges of our times, I hope the above provides perspective on why "Mass Against HP" is not the right approach for Cambridge.

Harvey